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ALLEGIANCES

WINDCLAN

LEADER Onestar – small light brown tabby tom

DEPUTY Harespring – brown-and-white tom

MEDICINE CAT Kestrelflight

WARRIORS Whitetail – white she-cat

Nightcloud – black she-cat with amber eyes

Crowfeather – very dark grey, almost black, tom with blue eyes

Apprentice, Fernpaw (dark brown she-cat)

Breezepelt – black tom with amber eyes

QUEENS Heathertail – light brown tabby she-cat with smoky-blue eyes, mothering Hollykit (black she-kit with green eyes) and Echokit (grey she-kit with darker grey flecks and amber eyes), also fostering Fallenkit (white tom-kit with ginger patches and green eyes) and Pigeonkit (white tom-kit with ginger patches and blue eyes)

THUDNERCLAN

LEADER Bramblestar – dark brown tabby tom

DEPUTY Squirrelflight – dark ginger she-cat with one white paw

MEDICINE CATS Leafpool – light brown tabby she-cat with amber eyes, white chest and paws

Jayfeather – grey tabby tom with blind blue eyes

WARRIORS Thornclaw – golden-brown tabby tom

Lionblaze – golden-brown tabby tom with amber eyes

Cloudtail – white tom

Sandstorm – pale ginger she-cat

Greystripe – grey tom

Mousewhisker – grey-and-white tom

Hazeltail – grey-and-white she-cat

Berrynose – cream-coloured tom with a stumpy tail

Brackenfur – golden-brown tabby tom

Cinderheart – grey tabby she-cat

Blossomfall – tortoiseshell-and-white she-cat

Bumblestripe – very pale grey tom with a black stripe going from his nose to his tail

Dovewing – pale smoky-grey she-cat with blue eyes

Ivypool – silver-and-white tabby she-cat

Cherryfall – ginger she-cat with amber eyes

QUEENS Daisy – cream-coloured she-cat with ice-blue eyes and a fluffy tail

Lilyheart – small dark tabby she-cat with white patches and blue eyes

ELDERS Purdy – dark brown tabby tom with amber eyes

RIVERCLAN

LEADER Mistystar – blue-grey she-cat with ice-blue eyes

DEPUTY Reedwhisker – black tom with dark grey eyes

MEDICINE CATS Mothwing – golden tabby she-cat with amber eyes

Willowshine – dark grey tabby she-cat with green eyes

WARRIORS Mintfur – light grey tabby tom

Duskfur – brown tabby she-cat

QUEENS Lakeheart – grey tabby she-cat

ELDERS Mosspelt – tortoiseshell she-cat

SHADOWCLAN

LEADER Blackstar – large white tom with jet-black paws

DEPUTY Rowanclaw – dark ginger tom with green eyes

MEDICINE CAT Littlecloud – light brown tabby tom with blue eyes

WARRIORS Tawnypelt – pale tortoiseshell she-cat with green eyes

Stonewing – white tom

Dawnpelt – cream-furred she-cat

QUEENS Grassheart – pale brown tabby she-cat

ELDERS Kinkfur – dark grey tabby she-cat

Prologue

Hollyleaf woke up, she gazed around. She had been fighting Hawkfrost... where was he? Her gaze fell on a ginger-and-white patched tomcat.

"Fallen Leaves!" Hollyleaf ran up to her love. "Where are we?"

Fallen Leaves' voice sounded as sweet as a bluebird's song. "I am sorry but you have died," he meowed.

"But how are you here, then. You were stuck in the tunnels."

"I-I was dead."

"That means we can be together, now, right?"

"That is what we wanted to talk to you about," a voice meowed.

Hollyleaf turned around. She saw Firestar, her grandfather, Hollyleaf gazed into his deep green eyes.

"Firestar!" Hollyleaf mewed. "You're dead?"

"Yes," Firestar meowed. "I died just after you did."

"So, what do you want to talk about?"

"There are two different litters being born in WindClan."

"Why does WindClan concern ThunderClan?"

"StarClan has decided to give you and Fallen Leaves a second chance of life, like Cinderpelt."

Hollyleaf couldn't believe what she was hearing. Being born in another Clan? Be loyal to that Clan? She was ThunderClan through and through.

Fallen Leaves padded up to her. "I want to live again," he meowed. "It has been a long time since I have scented fresh milk-scent or trained with my Clanmates. If we do this, we can be together! Everything we wanted can happen in WindClan, you can see Crowfeather. I can finally become a sharpclaw, I have been a softpaw for too long."

Hollyleaf looked at her paws, did she really want to turn down this offer? She could become a warrior again and have kits like she wanted!

"Yes," Hollyleaf mewed. "I accept the offer."

Out of the bushes, from behind Firestar, Bluestar stepped out. Their eyes glowed and Hollyleaf felt herself fading.

"Become a great warrior, Hollyleaf," Firestar meowed.

"You will become a sharpclaw at last, Fallen Leaves," Bluestar purred. "Like you wanted."

Hollyleaf closed her eyes. When she blinked them open, she was in WindClan's nursery.

Chapter 1

"Hollykit? Hollykit?" Hollyleaf felt a large paw nudge her. "Wake up, Hollykit."

Hollyleaf opened her eyes, she was Hollykit again. She gazed around, Hollykit stared a queen.

"I am your mother, Hollykit," the queen meowed. "My name is Heathertail."

Hollykit gazed as Heathertail, she was a light brown tabby. Beside Hollykit was grey she-kit with darker flecks.

"This is your littermate, Hollykit," Heathertail meowed, nosing the grey she-kit with darker flecks. "Her name is Echokit."

Hollykit looked at Echokit, Echokit's eyes were amber. Hollykit's eyes drifted over to a ginger-and-white patched tom-kit with green eyes and another tom-kit that looked just like the other, expect he had blue eyes.

"Who is they?" Hollykit asked.

"That is Fallenkit and Pigeonkit," Heathertail meowed. "But they aren't my kits, Hollykit. They're Splashlight's kits."

Hollykit padded up to Fallenkit and Pigeonkit, their eyes filled with sadness.

"Why do Fallenkit and Pigeonkit look sad?" Echokit asked.

Heathtail hesitated. "Well, Splashlight was killed by a Dark Forest cat."

"Hello, Fallenkit, Pigeonkit," Hollykit meowed. "Do you want to play?"

Fallenkit looked up at Hollykit, his green eyes glowed.

"No thanks," meowed, still looking at his paws.

"Yes," Fallenkit meowed. "What do you want to play?"

"Let's play a game called Fox and Warrior! I'll be the fox, you'll be the warrior!"

"Okay!" Fallenkit looked happier then he did before.

"I want to play too," Echokit growled and stomped over.

"You can be the fox and I'll be a warrior with Fallenkit," Hollykit decided.

Echokit got in a fox pose. "I am a fox and I'm going to eat *all* the kits in the nursery!"

Fallenkit pounced on Echokit and batted her with his tiny ginger-and-white paws. Echokit pushed Fallenkit off her and pounced on him. The two kits giggled while Hollykit felt her madness burn in her pelt.

He's mine! Hollykit hissed in her head but didn't dare say it out loud. *I was brought back to be with him, not see him be with you!*

Without thinking Hollykit pulled Fallenkit off Echokit and pounced on Echokit batted hardly.

"Ow! Ow! Ow!" Echokit pushed Hollykit off her. "That hurts!"

Hollykit then realised what she was doing.

"Sorry! Sorry," Hollykit apologised. "I didn't know what I was doing."

"But if it was hurting you, you'll need to toughen up," Pigeonkit muttered. "You want to be a warrior, don't you?"

"Pigeonkit, that isn't nice," Heathertail meowed. "You and Hollykit will go to your nests and think about what you two have done."

Hollykit padded into her nest, she didn't feel right. Hollykit didn't

feel right having Echokit near Fallenkit without her being there. *I think that Echokit should like Pigeonkit, not Fallenkit!* Hollykit snuggled into her nest and tried to go to sleep but she felt a nudge. She opened her eyes, Fallenkit was beside her.

"If you are wondering if I remember everything," Fallenkit whispered. "I do but I don't know how long we will remember."

Hollykit licked Fallenkit's cheek. "If we forget everything that happened, I will never stop loving you," she vowed.

"Me too."

Chapter 2

Hollykit woke up because she was being nudged, a moon had passed since she was born and she had forged a friendship with Echokit. Hollykit still thought that when Echokit was near Fallenkit, she had to react.

They were now playing Moss Ball. Hollykit batted the ball of moss out of the nursery. Pigeonkit was the one at the exit and he didn't stop it from going out.

"Why didn't you bat it back in here, Pigeonkit?" Echokit grunted. "You're a rabbit-brain!"

"Heathertail, can we go outside to get the moss ball?" Hollykit asked.

"Okay but come back inside when you have it," Heathertail replied. "Rain is in the air."

Hollykit, Fallenkit, Echokit and Pigeonkit padded out of the nursery. White and grey clouds floated in the sky, Heathertail was right. Rain is on its way.

"We'd better find the moss ball and get back in the nursery," Hollykit mewed. "Rain *is* coming."

Hollykit gazed around for the moss ball, then she saw it. It was in a *huge* puddle! She ran over to the puddle, she put her paw in it. The puddle was deep and the moss ball was in the middle. She couldn't swim to it, she wasn't RiverClan!

Fallenkit, Echokit and Pigeonkit were behind her, they saw the moss ball in the big, deep puddle.

"How are we going to get it?" Fallenkit asked.

Hollykit looked at where she put her paw, there were a ripple that pushed the moss ball closer to the other side of the puddle. Hollykit

splashed her paw in the water and the ripples moved the moss ball closer and closer to the other side of the puddle.

"Every cat, splash your paws on this side!" Hollykit mewed.

Pigeonkit, Fallenkit and Echokit went next to Hollykit and splashed their paws in the puddle. The moss ball moves closer and closer to the other end of the puddle.

"I'm going to the other side to get it," Hollykit padded around the puddle to where the moss ball was heading.

Hollykit reached her paw for it but when her paw touched it, it would go a bit back till the ripples moved it forward again. She reached and reach more and more until she fell in the water! It was deeper than she imagined, she splashed and splashed her paws.

Echokit raced into the nursery to get Heathertail and Pigeonkit ran into the apprentices' den but Fallenkit just stood on the edge of the puddle. Fallenkit's green eyes filled with fear, as if he was going to jump into the water to get Hollykit. Hollykit felt her body getting deeper and deeper into the puddle.

"I'm going to get you, Hollykit!" Fallenkit mewed, stepping into the water.

She managed to get her claws on the moss ball, it was keeping her from sinking for a little while. But the moss ball was filling up with water quickly and Hollykit's claws were getting loose. She claws slipped and she began to go deeper and deeper into the water.

She just heard Fallenkit screech: "Hollykit, I'll save you!" before her head was under the water.

. . .

"Are Fallenkit and Hollykit going to be alright?" a voice asked.

"Yes, well, maybe," another voice replied.

"*Maybe*? Hollykit is my kit and Fallenkit is my best friend's kit. And *you're* saying 'maybe'!?"

"I do not know if they will be OK but I have done my best. They could have chills."

Hollykit opened her eyes, she was in Kestrelflight's den. Fallenkit was next to her in the mossy nest, she got up and shook him. *He can't die, he just can't!*

"Hollykit, you're awake!" Heathertail grabbed her kit and wrapped her tail around her.

"You're squishing me!" Hollykit squirmed out of Heathertail's tail. "What about Fallenkit?"

"What about me?" a voice mumbled.

Hollykit turned around. Fallenkit was awake! She dashed over to him and licked his cheek.

"How long were we asleep?" Fallenkit asked.

"You were asleep for two days!" Heathertail meowed, franticly. "That's why I was so worried!"

"They should stay here for a few days," Kestrelflight meowed. "Just in case they have chills."

"Fine, I'll be in the nursery with Pigeonkit and Echokit if the kits need anything."

Hollykit watched Heathertail pad out of the medicine den, she would stay strong and so would Fallenkit.

Chapter 3

Hollykit rolled out of her nest, two moons had passed and Hollykit was getting too big to share a nest with three other kits and Heathertail.

"Can we all have different nests, Heathertail?" Hollykit asked.

"Fine," Heathertail meowed. "Wait till the apprentices get back with the moss but for now, you can start making your nests with my nest's moss."

"Why can't we go and collect our own moss," Fallenkit asked. "The apprentices aren't collecting it until tomorrow."

"Then you will have to wait till tomorrow. You're not allowed out of camp until you're apprentices."

"But we're allowed in Dirtplace," Echokit meowed. "Why aren't we allowed in the close part of the moor?"

"Because there could be something bad out there that could get us."

Hollykit felt enraged, she knew that becoming an apprentice was good but then they wouldn't get much sleep. She wanted to cherish her kithood, not the way she did last time. Hollykit would make the best of her kithood.

"You kits, take what you want from my nest," Heathertail meowed. "You make your own nests, I shall get you some more moss and ferns."

Heathertail padded out of the nursery, Hollykit padded to Heathertail's nest and took a clump of moss from it. Fallenkit and the other kits did the same. Hollykit and Fallenkit put the moss close together, Hollykit patted down her moss and got some more.

Soon her nest was soft as feathers on a cloud and so was Fallenkit's. Echokit's nest was small, she glared at Pigeonkit.

"You're hogging all the moss!" Echokit hissed. "Give me some!"

"Heathertail will be back with more moss," Pigeonkit meowed. "And she'll also have ferns!"

Hollykit let Pigeonkit and Echokit argue, they weren't her problem right around now. Fallenkit's nest was beside hers, she wanted him to be there forever. She got into her nest and enjoyed a time when Echokit wasn't around Fallenkit.

"Give me some moss!" Echokit demanded.

"No. You can't tell me what to do!" Pigeonkit hissed.

"Yes, I can!"

"Why?"

"Because I can!"

"That's not answer!"

"Yes, it is!"

"How?"

Echokit didn't answer. She pounced on Fallenkit, who was watching them argue. She batted him with her paws, Fallenkit started batting Echokit with his paws. They started rolling around batting each other.

Hollykit felt her pelt burn with anger. She pounced on the two of them and knocked them away from each other. Hollykit wanted Fallenkit and Echokit to be friends but nothing more. She put her paws on Fallenkit.

"Why do you let her do that?" Hollykit hissed. "You seem to be forgetting what we promised."

"I have not forgotten," Fallenkit meowed. "We're just having fun, keep your fur on!"

"But if you continue, you might forget."

"I won't Hollykit. I love---"

Hollykit didn't listen to anymore, she wished Echokit could stay away from Fallenkit. *Maybe make her stay close to Pigeonkit*, Hollykit wounder. *But how could I do that?*

She padded over to Pigeonkit, he looked sad. He looked like a flower that had wilted and died.

"What's wrong, Pigeonkit?" Hollykit asked.

"Echokit doesn't like me..." Pigeonkit mumbled. "I should have given her the moss."

"Do you like my sister?"

"Yes, I think she's pretty."

"Why don't you tell her then?" she had never thought that Pigeonkit *liked* Echokit. *This could be easier then I thought.*

"But she doesn't like me," Pigeonkit's ears drooped. "She likes my brother. Maybe I should be more like him."

"You don't need to be like Fallenkit, just tell Echokit how you feel."

"But what if you doesn't listen? Or... or... she---" Pigeonkit was silenced because Hollykit wiped her tail over his mouth.

"Just tell her how you feel."

Pigeonkit nodded, he padded over to Echokit.

"What do *you* want, rabbit-brain?" Echokit asked.

"I-I j-just wanted t-to say th-that I like you a bit," Pigeonkit mumbled.

"That's nice to know."

"Really?"

"Yes, because I don't like you!"

Pigeonkit turned away and ran to Hollykit. *I should've known that it wouldn't be that easy.*

"It is OK, Pigeonkit," Hollykit smoothed. "I think you're a great cat."

"R-really?" Pigeonkit sniffed. "Do *you* like me?"

Mouse-brain! Hollykit wished she could take back her words but she couldn't. Hollykit wondered what she would say to Fallenkit's brother. She couldn't say yes, else that would make Fallenkit mad. She couldn't say no, else Pigeonkit would get sad.

"No," Hollykit meowed. "But it has nothing to do with you, I'm just not the right cat for you."

"O-Okay," Pigeonkit sniffed.

Chapter 4

When Heathertail returned with the moss, it was dark. Echokit grabbed some moss and stuffed it in her nest. All Hollykit needed were some ferns, she got the ferns and weaved them through her nest. The ferns held the nest together.

"Okay, kits," Heathertail meowed. "Now that you have all finished your nests, you can go to sleep."

Hollykit snuggled down in her nest, she closed her eyes. She was asleep.

. . .

Hollykit woke up, half a moon had passed and Pigeonkit was trying and trying to get Echokit to like him. Hollykit watched as Pigeonkit got rejected over and over by her sister. Hollykit wondered if Pigeonkit was going to give up.

He can't give up! Hollykit thought. *What if Echokit goes back to Fallenkit?*

Hollykit couldn't let that happen! If Echokit went back to Fallenkit, Fallenkit could forget about their promises. Hollykit padded over to Fallenkit, he could get Pigeonkit to keep trying.

"Fallenkit, Pigeonkit likes Echokit," Hollykit meowed.

"I can see that, small that and *hear* that," Fallenkit retorted. "What do you want?"

"I need you to get Pigeonkit to keep trying."

"Why?"

"If we can get Echokit to like Pigeonkit, she'll just be friends with you."

"We *are* just friends."

"Do you see how she gets you fresh-kill? When I went with her, she throw the rest of it everywhere till she found the most-perfect rabbit."

"That's what friends do."

"*No,* that's what *mates* do."

"OK! OK! OK! I'll talk to Pigeonkit. I've seen some of the toms do that."

Hollykit watched Fallenkit pad over to Pigeonkit, Fallenkit would talk to Pigeonkit. After that talk, Pigeonkit would never stop trying to get Echokit to like him. Hollykit was now getting tired of waiting to become an apprentice, she wanted to go to Gatherings!

Her apprenticeship would begin in five half-moons. She wounded who her mentor would be. Haresring? Nightcloud? Maybe even Crowfeather? *No, kin can't mentor kin.*

Hollykit jumped in her nest, she rolled around in her nest. She wasn't tired but she felt like sleeping. She wanted to sleep but she couldn't, she felt like something was wrong. *Nothing is wrong.*

. . .

I am bored! Hollykit thought. A moon had passed and Pigeonkit had stopped trying to impress Echokit. Pigeonkit had been rejected too many times, at least that's what he had told Hollykit.

I need *Echokit to stop mooning over Fallenkit!* Hollykit thought. *She has to stop liking him, if she doesn't by the time we become warriors...* why was she so worried? They weren't even apprentices!

I still have plenty of time. Hollykit thought. In three half-moons she would become an apprentice along with Fallenkit, Echokit and Pigeonkit! She couldn't wait to become an apprentice but she was still cherishing her kithood.

Chapter 5

Hollykit was playing Moss Ball again in the sunlight of sunhigh with Pigeonkit, Echokit and Fallenkit. They batted the moss ball to one another. Suddenly, Breezepelt and Nightcloud burst through the camp, they were covered in battle-scratches.

"What happened, Nightcloud?" Hollykit asked.

"We were attacked by a ThunderClan raid," Nightcloud meowed, "I think we lost them."

"You didn't!" a voice snarled.

Out of nowhere, ThunderClan cats crashed through the camp. Hollykit, Fallenkit and Pigeonkit managed to get into the nursery.

"Where's Echokit?" Heathertail screeched.

Hollykit stuck her head just outside, Echokit was hiding under a leaf.

"Echokit," Hollykit screeched, "come in the nursery!"

Echokit ran out from under the leaf, she dodged warriors and apprentices fight. But a ThunderClan warrior caught sight of her, the warrior stood on her tail so she could run off. Echokit looked up at the ferocious warrior, her amber eyes filled with fear.

"Ferncloud!" the warrior grabbed Echokit by her scruff with his sharp teeth.

"Help! Help!" Echokit screeched in terror. "Help me!"

Pigeonkit came to Hollykit's side and saw Echokit in the jaws of the warrior. Pigeonkit was tiny compared to the warrior but his size didn't stop Pigeonkit from running out there to get Echokit. Hollykit watched Pigeonkit un-shelter his claws and batted the ThunderClan warrior, leaving faint scars.

The warrior dropped Echokit and ran off to help his Clanmate fight another WindClan warrior. Hollykit wondered why the ThunderClan warrior tried to take Echokit... did Echokit remind the warrior of someone?

She, her littermate, Fallenkit and Pigeonkit hid in the nursery with Heathertail. *The raid will be over soon...*

. . .

Hollykit woke up at dawn, the day was here!

"Echokit! Pigeonkit! Fallenkit, wake up!" Hollykit mewed, shaking them away. "We're going to become apprentices today!"

The three other kits were awake, they all started jumping around. They were so noisy they woke up Heathertail.

"You're not becoming apprentices until I give you a wash!" Heathertail meowed.

"But we *are* clean," Fallenkit retorted.

"*And* we can clean ourselves," Echokit added.

"Yeah!" Pigeonkit mewed.

"Fine, you can clean yourselves," Heathertail meowed, "but if I see one speck of dirt, moss or dust on any of you, I will clean you all until you're all spotless."

Hollykit helped Fallenkit reach the parts that he couldn't reach, Fallenkit did the same thing with Hollykit. Pigeonkit tried to help Echokit but Echokit refused.

"I only get cleaned by Fallenkit or myself," Echokit hissed. "You're covered in so much dust that you are a dust-mattered, rabbit-brained fool!"

Pigeonkit sulked away, he was depressed. Echokit wasn't being nice to him, she never would.

. . .

Every cat in camp was now awake and the dawn patrol had returned, Hollykit, Fallenkit, Pigeonkit and Echokit sat in front of Tall Rock.

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather at Tall Rock for a Clan meeting!" Onestar howled, he turned to the kits. "Hollykit, Fallenkit, Pigeonkit and Echokit, you have reached the age of six moons, and it is time for you to be apprenticed. From this day forward, until you receive your warrior names, you will be known as Hollypaw, Fallenpaw, Pigeonpaw and Echopaw." Onestar glanced at Hollypaw. "Hollypaw, your mentor will be Harespring. I hope Harespring will pass down all he knows on to you." Onestar glanced at Fallenpaw. "Fallenpaw, your mentor will be Whitetail. I hope Whitetail will pass down all she knows on to you." Onestar glanced at Pigeonpaw. "Pigeonpaw, your mentor will be Weaselfur. I hope Weaselfur will pass down all he knows down to you." Onestar glanced at Echopaw. "Echopaw, your mentor will be Emberfoot. I hope Emberfoot will pass down all he knows down to you." Onestar faced the Clan. "Clan dismissed."

Chapter 6

Hollypaw dashed up to Harespring, Harespring was deputy! Her mentor was the deputy that meant she would have to work really hard to impress him.

"What are we going to do?" Hollypaw asked her mentor. "Hunting practice? Battle training? Patrolling the borders?"

"We *will* be patrolling the borders," Harespring meowed. "But not now, first I will show you the best place for moss and ferns, then I will show you how to hunt, that will keep us busy will sunset. Then we will get some rest and take prey, we're going to be on tomorrow's dawn patrol."

"Dawn patrol? *Dawn* patrol?"

"Yes, dawn patrol. We'd better get out of camp, which will shut you up. If it doesn't stop your yapping, your yapping will scare away the *moss*!"

They headed out of camp, Hollypaw didn't want to go on dawn patrol. Even though patrols aren't fun, she would enjoy them, but not *dawn* patrol. She would have to get up at dawn and patrol the borders. *Well, that's why it's called "*dawn *patrol",* Hollypaw thought.

. . .

Hollypaw and her mentor got to the best place for moss and ferns, it was by a stream. Harespring told her that tiny fish would swim by sometimes and the most skilful warriors could catch them.

"By 'the most skilful warriors' do you mean Crowfeather?" Hollypaw asked.

Harespring glared at her. "Is that how you speak to your mentor?" he growled. "Or more important, is that how you speak to your *deputy*?"

"Why yes because Crowfeather is my kin and he mentioned to me that he taught you how to hunt fish."

"Yes, he did... but I'm going to teach you."

"Wait," Hollypaw got a whiff of a scent. "Is this the ThunderClan border?"

"Why yes it is."

"Doesn't ThunderClan disapprove with us hunting on the border?"

"No, ThunderClan likes peace with every cat. It's because ThunderClan is weak."

ThunderClan isn't weak, Hollypaw thought. *They just like peace.*

. . .

"Take prey and rest, Hollypaw," Harespring ordered. "Make sure you go to sleep strait after you finish eating, remember we have dawn patrol."

Don't remind me, Hollypaw thought. *I don't* like *dawn patrols.* Hollypaw padded over to the fresh-kill pile and took a thrush from it, she padded over to the apprentices' den. Fallenpaw was there, eating a rabbit.

"Hollypaw!" Fallenpaw mewed. "How are you?"

"Great," Hollypaw replied. "Harespring and I did a lot today, he showed me the best places for moss and tort me how to hunt."

"That's great! Whitetail showed me some battle-training," Fallenpaw replied and eyed the thrush. "Hey, I'm not that hungry. You want o' swap?"

"Sure."

Hollypaw pushed the thrush over to Fallenpaw and took the rabbit off him. She took a huge bite out of it.

"Remind me to make rabbit my favourite prey," Hollypaw mewed. "I like it better than thrush."

Chapter 7

"Wake up, Hollypaw," Harespring whispered. "Time for dawn patrol!"

Hollypaw opened her eyes, it was very dark. She could hardly see the sun.

"The sun isn't here yet!" Hollypaw hissed when she had left the den.

"We are beating the sun," Harespring meowed. "Come on. Weaselfur will be waiting with Pigeonpaw."

Finally, I can have a talk to Pigeonpaw about Echopaw! Hollypaw thought. *Then she can finally leave Fallenpaw alone!*

They set out on patrol, the sun was a small burning leaf. Hollypaw had to think of a way to get her mentor and Weaselfur to leave them. Pigeonpaw was next to her, his tail droopy. When they were walking next to a thorn bush, Hollypaw knocked Pigeonpaw into it.

"What's wrong with your apprentice, Weaselfur?" Harespring asked. "Every *kit* knows not to jump into a thorn bush!"

"Pigeonpaw, come out at once," Hollypaw meowed, trying to sound innocent. She then grabbed him by the scruff and pulled him out.

Pigeonpaw had thorns in his tail, paws and one was in his ear.

"Can you continue the patrol?" Weaselfur asked. "Do we need to go back to camp?"

"I'll take him back to camp," Hollypaw meowed, hopefully.

Weaselfur looked at Harespring with a doubtful look.

"She can take care of herself," Harespring meowed. "Fine, you can go."

"Go straight back to camp," Weaselfur ordered. "I don't want those getting infected."

Once the two warriors left, Pigeonpaw stood up.

"Why'd you do that?" he asked. "I wanted to be on this patrol."

"I need to talk to you," Hollypaw paused. "About Echopaw."

"This again? Don't bother, she hates me. Echopaw loves my brother, I should be more like him and maybe she'll love me."

"Echopaw does love you but she doesn't know it yet."

"How do you know?"

Hollypaw made small holes in the dirt with her claw.

"Destiny is like a river," she began. "It can turn into streams, pool into lakes or mound down waterfalls. You just need to do the right things to end up at your destiny."

"B-But, how can that be?" Pigeonpaw asked. "How do you know she loves me but she doesn't know? And how will I know that she loves me?"

"Trust your heart. Does it feel that you love her?"

"Yes."

"Then you really do. She'll know it one day."

Chapter 8

A moon later, Pigeonpaw stayed away from Echopaw... well, that's what Echopaw thought. Hollypaw knew Pigeonpaw's plan since she was the one who made it. The plan was that Pigeonpaw was to always walk past Echopaw without looking at her and to put flowers in her nest each night before she went to sleep.

"Each time you walk past her, she'll try to get your attention," Hollypaw meowed. "But whatever you do, *don't* look at her."

"But that'll be so hard!" Pigeonpaw replied. "She's so pretty."

"But you must, else she'll never like you."

"Fine but what are the flowers for?"

"When you put the flowers in her nest, the flowers smell so nice that she won't be able to smell your scent. Echopaw'll think that they're from you but because of you ignoring her, she'll think differently. I also want you to pay all your attention to me, I've spoken to Fallenpaw and he says he's fine with it."

Pigeonpaw gulped. "But that's cheating."

"Not it isn't," Hollypaw mewed. "It's sneaky thinking."

"Okay, I'll try."

"Good, I have to clear out the elders' bedding now and Echopaw'll be back from training soon. So, find a pretty flower and put it in her nest."

Hollypaw went to the medicine den and asked Kestrelflight for some mouse bile.

"Now remember---" Kestrelflight began but was cut off by Hollypaw.

"Kick it along the ground and when I'm done, wash it in the stream

– not with my tongue," Hollypaw muttered, rolling her eyes.

"Right."

Hollypaw kicked the bile-soaked moss over to the elders' den, Whitetail was licking her paw.

"You're finally here, Hollypaw," Whitetail groaned, then she blinked. "Sorry, I have a tick on by shoulder and it is very itchy, can you do that first?"

"Sure, Whitetail," Hollypaw replied.

"I miss training Fallenpaw. He was a good apprentice, he treats every she-cat like his mother."

"Okay."

"But Breezepelt will do a good job mentoring him too."

"I hope so."

"I saw you talking to Pigeonpaw."

"So?"

"Do you like him?"

"What? No!"

"Are you sure? You seem to spend a lot more time with Pigeonpaw then you do Fallenpaw – who claims you love him."

"My sister loves Fallenpaw and she shouldn't, I just made a plan with Pigeonpaw so Echopaw will leave Fallenpaw alone."

"Sounds like some cat is jealous."

Hollypaw's pelt burned. "Fallenpaw promised me that he would be my mate when we're warriors," Hollypaw hissed. "You wouldn't understand, Whitetail! And Fallenpaw just likes Echopaw as a friends."

. . .

Hollypaw watched Echopaw trying to get Pigeonpaw's attention.

"Oi, Pigeonpaw!" Echopaw hissed. "Can you hear me? Or do you have wool in your ears again, rabbit-brain?"

Pigeonpaw walked past her, picked a piece of fresh-kill and walked over to Hollypaw.

"That was so hard!" Pigeonpaw meowed, dropping the fresh-kill.

"You just have to do it a few more times and she'll be mooning over you," Hollypaw replied. "Did you put the flower in her nest?"

"Yes."

"Good. Now we share this prey."

Hollypaw and Pigeonpaw ate the rabbit, *I can't wait to see the look on my sister's face when she sees the flower!*

. . .

Hollypaw got into her nest, she smiled as Echopaw got into hers.

"Ow!" Echopaw shrieked. She stood up, inside Echopaw's nest was a dandelion. "Oi, Pigeonpaw, did you put this dandelion in my nest?"

Pigeonpaw didn't reply, instead he got into his nest and went to sleep. Hollypaw put her head down and went to sleep as well.

Chapter 9

Over the next few moons, Pigeonpaw tried to ignore Echopaw when he was around her but kept putting flowers – mostly dandelions – in her nest before she went to sleep.

"You're doing really well, Pigeonpaw," Hollypaw meowed. "By the time we're warriors, she'll want to be your mate."

"Thanks, Hollypaw," Pigeonpaw replied. "But I don't know how much longer I can ignore Echopaw for and she's getting really loud. I almost looked at her yesterday."

"Just keep it together, Pigeonpaw, next moon we will be warriors."

"Okay, I'll keep trying."

Hollypaw padded up to Fallenpaw.

"It's working," Hollypaw mewed.

"You have to stop!" Fallenpaw hissed. "If Pigeonpaw gets rejected by Echopaw one more time, his heart'll shatter!"

"But it's working, Echopaw isn't mooning over you."

"Well, it's not like she's mooning over Pigeonpaw, is it?"

Hollypaw paused. "Not yet but she will soon."

"What if 'soon' isn't soon enough. Pigeonpaw'll ask Echopaw to be his mate the second we're all warriors and she'll say no."

"Just trust me, my plan is working."

"*Your* plan? I thought it was Pigeonpaw's plan!"

"He agreed to the plan, making it his plan."

Fallenpaw looked around. "I need a tree," Fallenpaw meowed.

"What for?" Hollypaw asked.

"To bang my head on so I will forget this conversation every happened."

Fallenpaw began to pad away.

"Fallenpaw, wait!" Hollypaw ran after him.

"No, Hollypaw," Fallenpaw hissed. "I need to have some time to myself."

Hollypaw stopped and watched Fallenpaw pad away, out of camp.

. . .

A long time had passed and Fallenpaw hadn't come back yet, Hollypaw couldn't take it anymore. She needed to find Fallenpaw and make sure he was safe. Hollypaw looked up at the sky, the sun was going down, and so she needed to hurry. As Hollypaw was leaving camp, Breezepelt stopped her.

"Where are you going?" he asked.

"I need to find Fallenpaw!" Hollypaw replied.

"I saw him leave at sunhigh, I thought he'd of comeback by now."

"Well, he hasn't, please, Father, I need to find him!"

"I suppose, you can go but be back as soon as you can!"

Hollypaw dashed off, Fallenpaw's scent wasn't fresh but it wasn't faint. She followed what remained of his scent through the moor. Hollypaw ran and she ran and ran, following the scent of her beloved Fallenpaw. She stopped in front of a rock, realising that this was the rock that lead to the tunnels.

What was worse was that Fallenpaw's scent lead straight into it.

Chapter 10

"Fallenpaw!" Hollypaw called into the tunnels. "Come out, Fallenpaw! I'm sorry!"

When she got no reply, Hollypaw decided to go into the tunnels herself. She knew this place like her own pelt, surely she could find Fallenpaw. Hollypaw waited for her eyes to adjust to the darkness before she went in any further.

"Fallenpaw! Fallenpaw! Fallenpaw!" Hollypaw called.

"Fallenpaw! Fallenpaw! Fallenpaw!" the tunnels echoed.

"Don't hide from me, Fallenpaw. I'm sorry."

There was still no reply, only the echoes of the tunnels. Hollypaw continued to run in the tunnels, checking each one for Fallenpaw's scent.

. . .

Fallenpaw crouched in the cavern, crying.

"Why, Hollypaw?" Fallenpaw whispered. "I wouldn't say yes to Echopaw if she asked me. She'd then go to Pigeonpaw and *there* problem solved, there's no need for this over-complicated plan."

"Fallenpaw! Fallenpaw! Fallenpaw!" he then heard the echo of Hollypaw's voice.

Fallenpaw was about reply when he thought: *no, my mind is just imagining things.*

Then he heard: "Don't hide from me, Fallenpaw. I'm sorry."

Stop it, mind, I don't want to hear Hollypaw's voice right now. I just want to be alone, forever, I'm never leaving the tunnels again, Fallenpaw thought. *I'll stay here and leave the Clans be, I just wish*

Broken Shadow had of come for me. I heard her when they decided to leave the lake, I wish she had of stayed. Why did you, Jay's Wing? Why did you have to tell them to leave? If they had of stayed, they'd still be here and the Clans wouldn't have come. Then Hollypaw wouldn't have come down here and I wouldn't be stuck as a WindClan cat. And then when Broken Shadow had of died, she would've come down here and found me. Then she would be with me, forever.

"Fallenpaw! Fallenpaw! Fallenpaw!" Fallenpaw heard Hollypaw's voice echoing in his ears. "I need you, Fallenpaw. I love you!"

"Go away!" Fallenpaw snarled, making his heart shatter. "I'm staying here in the tunnels, where I should never have left! I'm Fallen Leaves again! I will never leave these tunnels, never! Never again!"

Chapter 11

"Go away!" Fallenpaw's voice echoed in a snarling way. "I'm staying here in the tunnels, where I should never have left! I'm Fallen Leaves again! I will never leave these tunnels, never! Never again!"

Hollypaw felt her heart shattered into a million pieces, she wouldn't leave Fallenpaw – or Fallen Leaves – or whatever here. She loves him too much and she didn't care what he said, he's Fallenpaw now and he will never be Fallen Leaves again.

"Fallenpaw! I love you, and by StarClan's light I command you come out here right now," Hollypaw howled.

"Hollypaw, please, I want to be alone," Fallenpaw replied.

"I won't take no as an answer, Fallenpaw! We were reincarnated to be together!"

"I'm Fallen Leaves!"

"No, you're not!"

"Yes, I---" Fallenpaw was cut off by his screech.

"What's wrong?" Hollypaw yelled.

"A f-f-fox!"

"Don't worry, I'm coming!"

Hollypaw ran, following the voice of her beloved Fallenpaw.

"Where are you?" Hollypaw called.

"I'm in the cavern!" Fallenpaw shrieked in reply.

Hollypaw knew exactly where the cavern was, straight ahead. What was supprising was... why hadn't Fallenpaw learnt how to fight

foxes yet? She reached the cavern, Fallenpaw was cornered by a fox.

"Hey, fox-breath!" Hollypaw hissed. "If you mess with my Fallenpaw, you mess with me!"

The fox looked at Hollypaw and let out a snarl but didn't attack her, instead it jumped on Fallenpaw. Fallenpaw batted his paws gently at the fox, whimpering softy but then fell unconscious. *You can do this, Hollypaw, pretend its Echopaw... expect she's actually hurting Fallenpaw.* Hollypaw pictured the fox to be Echopaw, which was very hard because she had formed a close bond with Echopaw. But once she had pictured her, Hollypaw sprang at the fox and knocked it off Fallenpaw. Hollypaw clawed the fox's face as it tried to wriggle away. The fox pushed Hollypaw off it after it bit her leg. The fox then growled, shaking its head as blood oozed from the scars that Hollypaw left there. The fox decided that it wanted a death wish by going over to Fallenpaw, scratching him and making the white and ginger-patched apprentice bleed.

"Would you stop hurting my Fallenpaw?" Hollypaw snarled. "We'll leave you be if you let us be!"

Suddenly, the fox ran off into another tunnel. Hollypaw went to Fallenpaw, he was wounded and bleeding, *there isn't anything to heal him with here.* So – with all the strength Hollypaw had – she got Fallenpaw onto her back and began to carry him out of the tunnels, across the moor and back to camp.

Chapter 12

"Hollypaw! What happened?" Heathertail fretted.

"Fallenpaw ran into a fox," Hollypaw replied. "He got too terrified and fainted. I fought the fox, it ran off."

"We have to get you to Kestrelflight right now!"

"I know that."

Hollypaw carried Fallenpaw over to the medicine den – either Fallenpaw, she or both of them had a big gash because there was a blood trail behind them.

"Great StarClan, are you sure it was just one fox?" Kestrelflight asked, getting cobwebs.

"Yes, one fox," Hollypaw replied, putting Fallenpaw down into a nest.

"Just lie down, Hollypaw, I'll take care of you."

. . .

Hollypaw woke up, Fallenpaw was still asleep, and he had been like this for days. Kestrelflight had stopped the bleeding but said they couldn't do any training until the wounds had completely healed. Pigeonpaw would visit her and Fallenpaw daily and give Hollypaw updates on Echopaw but Hollypaw never saw her sister come in.

"Please, Fallenpaw, wake up!" Hollypaw begged. "Don't die!"

"He'll wake up once he's ready," Kestrelflight meowed. "Now, eat that finch, you need your strength."

Hollypaw took a bite of the finch, she felt empty. Hollypaw moved the finch under Fallenpaw's nose, Fallenpaw's ginger ear twitched. The black apprentice held her breath as Fallenpaw opened his eyes

and raised his head.

"Fallenpaw! You're awake!" Hollypaw mewed.

"Why'd you bring me back?" Fallenpaw whispered.

"Because I love you and I don't want to lose you."

"When we become warriors, I'm leaving after our vigil."

"Why?"

"The tunnels are my home now."

"Please don't leave, Fallenpaw, I'll miss you."

"Then come with me."

Hollypaw hesitated, did she really want to throw away what she had in WindClan like she did in ThunderClan? Hollyleaf heard about how Leafpool gave up everything to be with Crowfeather when they ran away, was this how she felt? Anxious to leave the Clans behind?

"I'll think about it," Hollypaw whispered.

"You'd better have an answer when we become warriors," Fallenpaw replied.

Chapter 13

"Let all cats old enough to catch their own prey gather at Tall Rock for a Clan meeting!" Onestar howled. "Today we welcome four new warriors. I, Onestar, leader of WindClan, call upon my warrior ancestors to look down on these apprentices. They have trained hard to understand the ways of your noble code and I commend them to you as warriors in their turn." Onestar turned to the apprentices. "Hollypaw, Fallenpaw, Echopaw and Pigeonpaw, do you all promise to uphold the warrior code and protect and defend your Clan, even at the costs of your lives?"

"I do," Pigeonpaw and Echopaw replied.

"I-I do," Hollypaw stammered.

"I..." Fallenpaw hesitated. "I do."

"Then by the powers of StarClan, I give you your warrior names," Onestar meowed. "Hollypaw, from this moment you will be known as Hollyfall. Fallenpaw, from this moment you will be known as Fallenpath. Echopaw, from this moment you will be known as Echodawn. Pigeonpaw, from this moment you will be known as Pigeonwing. We honour your commitment as we welcome you all as full warriors of WindClan!"

"Hollyfall! Fallenpath! Echodawn! Pigeonwing! Hollyfall! Fallenpath! Echodawn! Pigeonwing! Hollyfall! Fallenpath! Echodawn! Pigeonwing!"

After the ceremony, every cat separated into groups. Hollyfall saw Echodawn pad up to Fallenpath.

"Fallenpath," Echodawn meowed.

"Echodawn," Fallenpath dipped his head.

Oh no! Here it comes!

"Fallenpath, ever since I first met you, I felt something strong between us," Echodawn began, shuffling closer to Fallenpath.

"Yeah..." Fallenpath shuffled away from the new grey warrior.

"I love you."

"Um... Echodawn, I---"

"Will you be my mate, Fallenpath? And father my future kits?"

Fallenpath hesitated, Hollyfall held her breath.

"I'm sorry, Echodawn, but no," Fallenpath replied. "I never loved you more than a friend, Hollyfall is – and forever will be – my mate."

Echodawn didn't reply, instead she ran out of camp in tears, Hollyfall never expected that she would do that.

"Should I go after her?" Hollyfall asked.

"Shouldn't Pigeonwing go after her?" Fallenpath replied.

"I'm going after her."

Hollyfall dashed off before Fallenpath replied, into the moor.

. . .

It was very easy to find Echodawn, as her crying gave away where she was. Hollyfall saw Echodawn pawing at leaves and berries.

"What are you doing?" Hollyfall asked.

Echodawn looked at her. "Collecting herbs," she replied, Hollyfall knew she was holding back tears.

"And why, I may ask?"

"I going to become a medicine cat."

Chapter 14

"Why, you just became a warrior and you trained so hard for it?" Hollyfall asked.

"Since Fallenpath rejected me, I have no feelings," Echodawn replied. "The only way I can live without feelings is to be a medicine cat."

"Echodawn, I know some cat who has loved you for quite some time."

"You mean Pigeonwing?"

"Yes."

"But he's ignored me for the past four moons."

"But he's the one putting the flowers in your nest. Pigeonwing was getting your attention by ignoring you, you love him and you know you do."

"What? How do you know?"

Hollyfall took a deep breath. "Because I'm the one who told him too," she admitted. "I knew you loved him right from the beginning, Echodawn, but you were hiding it from every cat. Even yourself."

"Do you think Pigeonwing still loves me, Hollyfall?" Echodawn asked.

"If he's the same cat you rejected when you were kits, yes. Don't become a medicine cat, Echodawn, if Pigeonwing sees that... his heart'll shatter and he'll never find love again."

Echodawn nodded, her eyes filled with an understanding look.

"Where is Pigeonwing?" Echodawn asked.

"Getting ready for the vigil," Hollyfall replied.

"The vigil! We can't be late!"

The two sister warriors ran back to camp for their vigil.

. . .

Hollyfall sat the vigil with Fallenpath, Echodawn and Pigeonwing. It would be a long night. Echodawn had asked Pigeonwing to be her mate and he said yes. Hollyfall knew he wouldn't decline the she-cat he had loved since he was a kit. Fallenpath looked at Hollyfall, his green eyes were telling her that he was leaving tomorrow. *Don't leave!* Hollyfall pleaded silently. *I came back to be with you! Not watch you leave!*

Chapter 15

"You may all go get some fresh-kill, find yourselves a nest in the warriors' den and sleep," Harespring ordered.

Hollyfall dipped her head at her former mentor, Fallenpath didn't even look at the deputy before walking off.

"You sure you chose a good mate, Hollyfall?" Harespring asked. "I'm sure he'll be ignoring you, like what Crowfeather done to Nightcloud and what Breezepelt done to Heathertail."

"No, he's good, thanks, Harespring," Hollyfall replied.

"I like your warrior name, Hollyfall, nice ring to it. I know you chose it."

"Thanks, Harespring, I'd better be off now."

Harespring dipped his head and walked away from the new black warrior. Hollyfall padded after Fallenpath, who was pawing at a thrush.

"I'm going to leave while Echodawn and Pigeonwing are asleep," Fallenpath whispered. "Come with me, Hollyfall."

"B-but what about what we've trained for?" Hollyfall asked.

"I've decided that I don't want to be around so many cats for the rest of my life. I only want you, Hollyfall, I don't want to be alone but I don't want to be squished."

Hollyfall hesitated. This was what love was, right? If you love some cat enough, you would give up everything to be with them, right? Hollyfall realized that she'd been isolated from every cat expect when there was a Clan meeting or was going the elders' bedding.

"I love you, Fallenpath," Hollyfall meowed. "And if love is doing whatever you can to make your mate happy, then I will come back

to the tunnels with you."

Chapter 16

Once Pigeonwing and Echodawn were asleep – it didn't take too long since they were already quite tired. Hollyfall and Fallenpath escaped the camp through the Dirtplace because they didn't want to be asked where they were going. Hollyfall felt at home with Fallenpath and Fallenpath felt at home in the tunnels, so wherever Fallenpath went, Hollyfall was at home with him.

"Just you and me," Fallenpath murmured. "In the tunnels, together forever."

"Fallenpath, we could make our own Clan!" Hollyfall suggested. "Like how your Clan was before they left the lake!"

Fallenpath's eyes widened. "How would we test the softpaws are ready to be sharpclaws? Where would our camp be?"

"The cavern could be our camp since it is the safest place in the tunnels. They would have to go out one tunnel and make it back to the carven without coming back from that same tunnel."

"That is a good idea. Just our small Clan," he paused. "We could be TunnelClan!"

"That would be great!" Hollyfall looked at Fallenpath. "Would they have to earn their sharpclaw names?"

"If it is like how my Clan was oh so long ago, no."

. . .

Once they got to the cavern, Hollyfall jumped on the ledge.

"Do you want to be leader, Hollyfall?" Fallenpath asked.

"No," Hollyfall replied and jumped down. "I believe you should be."

"What? Why me?"

"Because you have knowledge of the ancient Clan and you have a flame of leadership burning inside of you."

"For you, I'll be the leader," Fallenpath jumped on the ledge. "I declare this ledge to be called Tunnel Ledge. Since you have told me that this will be like my old Clan, Hollyfall, you will be Holly Fall and I will be Fallen Path."

"Are you sure, Fallen Path? You could be Fallen Leaves again."

"No, that was from my old life. I see that now, I am now Fallen Path, the leader of TunnelClan."

"Fallen Path! Fallen Path! Fallen Path!" Holly Fall called out.

. . .

Holly Fall and Fallen Path were having fun being alone in the tunnels. A moon had passed and it seemed no cat had thought to look down here for them.

"Fallen Path, I'll go hunting," Holly Fall meowed.

"Sure, Holly Fall," Fallen Path replied. "Don't get caught."

Chapter 17

Holly Fall felt a pain in her belly as she was coming back to the cavern-camp carrying two mice by their tails in her jaws. Another moon had went by quickly and Holly Fall had gotten used to being alone with Fallen Path again. She felt another pain stab her belly, Holly Fall knew what this meant and she couldn't wait to tell Fallen Path. Holly Fall knew that Fallen Path was be excited and nervous at the same time.

"Good, you're back, Holly Fall," Fallen Path meowed. "Any news?"

"Nope," Holly Fall replied. "But I have to tell you something."

"What is it? Do you need to go back to WindClan? Holly Fall, we've spoken about this. If WindClan had wanted us, they would've followed our scents down into the tunnels and into our cavern-camp."

"No, nothing like that, my love."

"Then what is it?"

Holly Fall took a deep breath. "I'm expecting kits," Holly Fall meowed.

"You mean...?" Fallen Path stammered. "I'm going to be a father?"

"Yes, and TunnelClan is getting new members."

"But how do you know?"

"When I was Hollyleaf, as an apprentice, I first was a medicine cat apprentice. I remember how to detect if a she-cat is expecting."

"That's great! I can't wait!"

"Neither can I, Fallen Path, I know you will be a great father."

Chapter 18

"You can do it, Holly Fall!" Fallen Path urged. "Push!"

"I'm trying, mouse-brain!" Holly Fall retorted. "It hurts!"

Holly Fall pushed while Fallen Path watched excitedly and nervously as the kits were coming out.

"I see a kit's head," Fallen Path reported. "What do I do?"

"Once it is out, nip the sac so the kit can breathe," Holly Fall replied. "Then pass it to me so I can lick it."

Once the kit was out, Fallen Path nipped the sac to release the kit. Then he passed it to Holly Fall, the kit was a black she-kit with ginger patches. With all the strength Holly Fall had, she licked the kit.

"Another kit is coming!" Fallen Path mewed.

"Do the same with that kit," Holly Fall replied when you had he breath. "Then you lick it."

Fallen Path nipped the sac on the second kit, then he showed it to Holly Fall before he began to lick it. The kit was a white tom-kit with black patches. Holly Fall felt another kit coming out, and she knew it would be the last one. Fallen Path didn't ask Holly Fall what to do this time, he just did it. When the kit was out Fallen Path nipped the sac and showed Holly Fall the kit. The last kit was a white she-kit with black and ginger patches. Once Holly Fall had gotten the strength to sit up, Fallen Path brought up the topic of naming the kits.

"Shouldn't we wait for their eyes to open?" Holly Fall replied.

"I guess you're right," Fallen Path replied.

. . .

When their kits' eyes were open, Holly Fall felt so happy. The black she-kit with ginger patches had green eyes, the white tom with black patches had green eyes and the white she-kit with black and ginger patches had amber eyes.

"Now that their eyes are open, can we name them?" Fallen Path asked hopefully.

"Sure, Fallen Path," Holly Fall asked.

"Can the tom be Shadow Leaves?"

"I can see that it makes sense, his black patches look like shadowy leaves."

"And... the white she-kit," Fallen Path meowed. "Autumn Leaves?"

"Sure, but I have one question," Holly Fall replied.

"What is it?"

"What's an autumn?"

"Autumn is what Twolegs call leaf-fall and this she-kit's pelt looks like falling leaves."

"Oh, okay."

"Now for the black she-kit."

The two TunnelClan cats looked at each other and meowed at the same time: "Holly Leaves."

Chapter 19

"How old would a kit be before they were to become a softpaw?" Holly Fall asked her mate after he returned from hunting.

"Six moons," Fallen Path replied. "Five more moons until these three can do training."

Shadow Leaves, Holly Leaves and Autumn Leaves played with a dried leaf. Shadow Leaves almost knocked Holly Leaves into the drinking puddle.

"Be careful, you three," Fallen Path meowed. "That's our drinking water."

"We *know*, Father," Shadow Leaves replied. "But Holly Leaves won't give me the leaf."

"That's because it's a holly leaf," Holly Leaves squeaked. "It's my name!"

"But it's just *a* holly leaf," Autumn Leaves mewed. "Your name is 'Holly *Leaves*' that means more than one holly *leaf*."

"Why you?" Holly Leaves pounced on Autumn Leaves and play-fought with her.

Shadow Leaves walked up to Fallen Path. "Father, what are the Clans like?" he asked.

"Whatever do you mean?" Fallen Path asked.

"You've told us of the Clans, there's WindClan, RiverClan, ShadowClan and ThunderClan. But what are they like? Why did you leave WindClan?"

"We weren't at home there, so we moved here."

Holly Fall was about to protest but held her tongue, just so long as

Fallen Path was happy, she was happy.

"Why do all our names end in 'Leaves'?" Autumn Leaves asked when she finished play-fighting Holly Leaves.

"Because your patches look like leaves," Holly Fall replied.

"What an autumn?" Holly Leaves asked.

"Autumn is what Twolegs call leaf-fall," Fallen Path meowed.

"What's a Twoleg? What's leaf-fall?" Shadow Leaves asked.

"A Twoleg is a pink creature that walks on its hind legs."

"And leaf-fall is the season when all the leaves all off the trees," Holly Fall added.

"That's amazing!" Shadow Leaves replied.

"Now, it's late. After I give you milk, you need to go to sleep."

The three kits drank up the milk. Holly Fall felt very happy. These kits were so special, to her and to Fallen Path. Nothing would come between Holly Fall and her mate again.

Chapter 20

One day, while Fallen Path was looking after the kits, Holly Fall went hunting. Her ears pricked and she saw a squirrel! *Wow, how lucky!* She thought. *Squirrels never come down here!*

Holly Fall chased the squirrel in the tunnels, she didn't notice that it had run out of the tunnel and into WindClan territory. Once Holly Fall caught the squirrel, she realised that she wasn't in the tunnel anymore.

"Halt, trespasser!" a voice howled, Holly Fall recognised Pigeonwing.

"It's good to see you, too, Pigeonwing," Holly Fall retorted in a snappy way.

"Hollyfall? We'd thought you'd died, Echodawn was worried about you."

"No, we're alive and well."

"Wait," Pigeonwing sniffed Holly Fall. "Did you have kits? You have the milk-scent on you."

"Yes, I did have kits. Their Fallen Path's. Their names Shadow Leaves, Autumn Leaves and Holly Leaves."

"Why do they have warrior names already?"

"Because Fallen Path and I have made a new custom, they don't have to earn a warrior name. All they have to earn is the status."

"Oh, well, can I tell the Clan that you're alive?"

"You can only tell Echodawn, please, no cat else," Holly Fall replied. "I don't want cats to know we're still alive."

"OK, well, it was good to see you, Holly Fall. And thank you,

because of you, Echodawn is expecting my kits!"

"Congrats, now I need to go."

. . .

Once Holly Fall came back in the cavern with the squirrel, Fallen Path and the kits were playing.

"Fallen Path, guess who I ran into?" Holly Fall meowed.

"Um... who?" Fallen Path guessed.

"Pigeonwing!"

"How is my brother?"

"He's good, *and* Echodawn is having his kits!"

"Wow, I never expected that."

"Who is Pigeon Wing?" Shadow Leaves asked.

"Who is Echo Dawn?" Holly Leaves asked.

"Who is His Kits?" Autumn Leaves asked.

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"Pigeonwing is your father's brother," Hollyfall replied. "Echodawn is my sister. And their kits aren't born yet so, don't ask."

"And their names are only one word," Fallen Path added. "So say it like that."

"OK, Father," Shadow Leaves mewed.

"Yes, Father," Holly Leaves and Autumn Leaves replied with two little speaks.

"Now, let your mother and I eat this squirrel, then she can give you your milk," Fallen Path commanded.

Holly Fall ate the squirrel with Fallen Path, the flavours were delicious, precise but a bit unfimillar to her.

. . .

That night, after the kits were finally asleep, Holly Fall and Fallen Path looked outside the cavern roof. The stars were shining down on them. Holly Fall was sure that StarClan was watching over them and no matter where they went, StarClan would always be there. Guiding their pawsteps though their lives, forever.

Epilogue

Two moons had passed and at dusk, Holly Fall and Fallen Path decided to take their kits out to see the sunset.

"What does a sunset look like?" Holly Leaves asked.

"How big is a sunset?" Autumn Leaves asked.

"Can I eat a sunset?" Shadow Leaves asked.

"It looks like the sun setting, Holly Leaves," Holly Fall replied. "Quite big, Autumn Leaves, and no, Shadow Leaves, you can't eat it."

Once they got to the exit of the tunnels, they sat at the exit. The three kits watched in amazement, watching the sun go down.

"Wow!" Holly Leaves mewed.

"It's so big!" Shadow Leaves squeaked.

"And pretty!" Autumn Leaves added.

"Are you sure I can't eat it?"

Holly Fall rolled her eyes. "I'm sure you can't," she scolded. "You're way too small to fit the sun in your mouth. And the sun is our only source of heat, you would burn if you even touched it."

"Aw. It looks so tasty."

"Well, it wouldn't be."

Holly Fall leaned on Fallen Path, her black her agienst his white and ginger patched fur. This is where Fallen Path would be, by her side. Forever. Love would keep him there because love was the only thing that mattered.